

# HOUSING FUTURES



Volume 4 Issue 1— February 2014

## SouthEast is a Co-operative Community

Member participation is essential to a co-operative. SouthEast has two major forms of participation—member attendance at General Meetings and at social events—both contributing to member consciousness and engagement. On the 18 November 2013 there was the AGM at the Dan-denong Club and on the 1 December 2013 there was a Xmas Party at the Healesville Sanctuary.

Political AGM



Social XMAS Party



<https://twitter.com/SouthEastOOP>

Followers: **274** Tweets: **126** ( 27 Jan 2014)



# MANAGEMENT MATTERS



## SHARING COMMUNITY

**Ian McLaren**  
**General Manager**

A co-operative strives to be a community of members—a community that shares co-operative values and principles that inform the mission and objectives of providing affordable housing to the member-owners.

There are two critical opportunities for members to participate—politically through General Meetings and socially through activities such as the XMAS Party.

Social events are as important as general meetings in facilitating a sense of co-operative identity. The establishment and development of consumer co-operatives in 19th Century England was in part built on social activities such as tea dances and soirees.

The Xmas Party on the 1 December 2013 was a great success because of the number of members attending but it was also a success because of the individual contributions of members:

Member director Andrea Lee co-ordinated the event and would not stop cooking on the day. Andrea's daughters Samara Lee and Koriena Lee and their friend Shantele Blackly, face-painted all day.

Member directors Shirley Faram and Jan Dickson spent days buying for and packing the showbags. The First Option Credit Union also donated showbags and \$750 towards the cost of the XMAS Party and SouthEast is grateful for their support. <http://www.firstoptioncu.com.au> First Option credit union is a provider of banking and financial services owned by its members—predominantly benefiting employees, their families and contractors and host companies, spanning the gaming, leisure, hotel, telecommunications and petrochemical industries.

For over 45 years, we have actively looked after our Members, as we understand their specific needs and have grown alongside our host companies and their people. The "First Option" name was launched in July 2005, when TAB Credit Union (NSW) merged with Flying Horse Credit Union (Victoria); to create an industrially focused Credit Union. In January 2008, Ericsson Credit Union joined the First Option Family.

The SouthEast board meeting on the 13 December 2013 was so pleased with the success of the XMAS Party it has already set a date for this year's - on 30 November 2014. We hope that all members who attended will come again and that more will also come. All members will be advised of registration requirements later this year.

On behalf of all staff, I hope 2014 will be a positive year for all of us—members and staff.

# REPEAL CALL—BED TAX UK

In an interim report published on Monday 16 December 2013, the UK House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee called on the UK Coalition Government to the repeal the Bedroom Tax.

[Report: The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Interim Report](#)

[Report: The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Interim Report \(PDF\)](#)

[Inquiry: The impact of the Bedroom Tax & other changes to housing benefit in Scotland](#)

[Scottish Affairs Committee](#)

While this recommendation was being considered, the Committee also called on the Government to suspend application of the Bedroom Tax for all those tenants to whom a reasonable alternative offer cannot be made.

This takes account of the evidence received which shows clearly that there are not enough smaller houses available for tenants hit by the Bedroom Tax to transfer into. The vast majority of tenants affected by the Bedroom Tax will have been allocated their existing housing before the new tax was invented – and the lack of any alternative offers means that they have no choice but to go into arrears if they simply cannot afford the extra costs.

Other amendments proposed for the operation of the tax include:

- Exemptions for those disabled people who require a room to store or use equipment or aids or who require to sleep apart from their partner
- Non application where it would be financially perverse to do so – eg where the only alternative of a smaller private let would be more expensive or where removing fixed aids and adaptations, and then reinstalling them in a smaller home, would be more expensive than the savings over two years
- All children of secondary school age should be allowed a bedroom of their own to allow quiet study
- All disabled children, of whatever age, should have a bedroom of their own

The Committee also believes there should be changes to the system of Discretionary Housing Payments, which have been designed by the Government to mitigate the worst impacts of the Bedroom Tax. In particular:

- There should be a standard nationwide entitlement system, across the UK as a whole, rather than the present postcode lottery. Councils would then be free to take account of local circumstances above the basic national safety net
- Both the UK and Scottish Governments should make longer term commitments to the provision of DHP payments in order to allow local authorities to plan and structure their budgets and minimize the prevalence of short term DHP payments

## REGISTRAR REFLECTIONS



### **SouthEast AGM speech 18 November 2013**

Good evening everyone and thanks for the opportunity of being here tonight to say a few words. I know many speakers say they are going to be brief and then go on for ages and ages but I can assure you I will be brief – no more than at least an hour. Or more if I get an encore! Don't worry that's a joke. I did however ask Ian McLaren if there were any particular points he thought I should cover and he kindly sent me a very useful list of questions. Some of which I will be answering tonight. So it may be an hour, you never know. The first one was who I think will win the Ashes this year. Well even though I am a Australian Citizen I am still a Pom. Which I think answers that question. I am sure it will be an exciting contest and the best team will win. And they are English.

I am conscious your excellent Annual report says towards 2022. But before we get our crystal balls out and gaze into the future it is worth reflecting on what the sector has done.

We now have 44 registered housing agencies in Victoria who own and manage over 18, 000 homes. These properties are worth over \$2.5 billion and the sector employs over 1200 people.

## Anthony Hardy—and Co-ops

We have seen sustained growth over the years but this has tailed off to a certain extent recently but not disappeared completely as you know in some organisations such as your own, with the plans for new homes at First Street.

Most importantly performance measured by the Housing Registrar has not declined and there has been a high level of satisfaction from tenants.

From time to time the Housing Registrar has had to raise an eyebrow but that's the whole idea behind the regulatory framework – finding problems and fixing them.

I know the big question and one that Ian raised with me and he's not alone in posing this question is where next? I regret I am not in a position to answer that question as we are still waiting the outcome of Victoria's Social Housing Framework. I like you can only hope that there will be an answer soon.

But given the success of the sector over the years I am sure that housing associations and housing providers will have an important role to play, as you do at the moment.

Another big question knocking about is the proposed National Regulatory System and Victoria's position.

We took part in the Phase 1 pilot and were grateful to HCA, Home Ground and St Kilda for joining us in this pilot and allowing us to use them as guinea pigs. We are waiting on the final national evaluation of the pilot. I think that the impact on those agencies that were involved was not as great as was imagined. I have been doing a lot of work to try and make sure that our regulatory framework has had a major influence on the NRS so if we do join then I hope that the change, of which there will be some, will be limited. Watch this space is all I can say and I am committed to keeping everyone up to speed with what may happen.

I can see it's been another important year for South East as your Annual Report explains.

Your work and reputation with the Housing Registrar is very good, you have moved onto the new DHS General lease which reinforces your financial position allowing you to put money aside for improvements. I see high levels of satisfaction from tenants and good performance results all round, so well done. You also held workshops to improve your governance which is to be commended.

And you are looking at how you can build more homes in the First St project in partnership with CEHL and DHS.



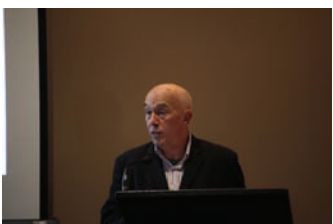
## Anthony Hardy—and Co-ops



I am pleased to see the strategic partnership with CEHL is continuing to be of benefit and this I think is a very good example of meaningful and effective co-operation between co-operatives. I am sure many in the room know more about the ethos and principles of the co-operative movement.



One thought has struck me is that whilst your organisation is founded on these principles and your members draw so many benefits from you as a co-op could there not be more co-operation between co-operatives? All housing co-operatives are registered as providers and that's not something that can easily be taken away. But is there more scope for all co-operatives to work more closely. That's not to say this is or should be a regulatory requirement but in the current climate is there more to be gained by working more closely together, informally but formally as you have done with CEHL?



Food for thought.



Ian also asked me what I saw as the future for small providers and in particular housing co-ops. Well again it's a difficult question, but I think that the move to the new DHS General Lease and the improved financial opportunities it gives you will enable you to reinforce the benefits you bring, to maintain the existing stock well and hopefully see some prudent growth – but again that's a decision for you and not a regulatory requirement.



## Anthony Hardy—and Co-ops

Some eight years ago I was about to make the big leap and move to this wonderful country. Not surprisingly I came with some baggage. The majority of which was all put into a 40 foot shipping container and shipped out here. But I have to admit that as a regulator of a number of years with the Housing Corporation my experience of dealing with registered co-ops was not good. I had seen and had to deal with some very dysfunctional co-ops in my time.

So you can imagine that I came with a certain degree of trepidation and also an opinion I have to admit that verged more on the negative. But I would like to thank SouthEast Housing co-op for changing that view over the years. Now that's not to say we have not had our difficulties, but we have worked through them in an open transparent and effective way.

What I see now is an organisation that holds its co-operative principles very close to its heart which it should, but also one that gets on and does a good job for its tenants and in looking after a number of properties for the Director of Housing. One that is also well placed for the future.

Long may that commitment to good service to tenants, good governance and sound financial and service performance continue.

Well done and I look forward to 2014 and all it brings on the way.

## AGM—Election

At the AGM on 18 November 2013 Returning officer David Griffiths reported that 36 members had voted in the election for directors—31 votes were valid and five votes were invalid. He reported that the candidates and their votes were as follows: Tracey Hall 25, Shirley Faram 23. Gayle Koubwere 23 and Natalie Leddick 22.

He declared, therefore, that Tracey Hall, Shirley Faram and Gayle Koubwere had been elected.

Subsequently, the AGM elected Shirley Faram Chairperson and Andrea Lee Secretary.

**Authorisation:** Authorised by Shirley Faram, Chairperson, SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd, Plaza Business Centre, the Hub, Level 3, 26 to 36 McCrae St. Dandenong 3175 Telephone: 03 9706 8005 Fax: 03 9706 8558

# XMAS PARTY PIX



Eating is not merely a material pleasure.  
Eating well gives a spectacular joy to life  
and contributes immensely to goodwill  
and happy companionship. It is of great  
importance to the morale.

Elsa Schiaparelli



Statistics show that of those who contract  
the habit of eating, very few survive.

George Bernard Shaw



To read without reflecting is like eating  
without digesting.

Edmund Burke

Read more at <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/eating.html#TooCvmrS06dl26Vy.99>



# XMAS PARTY PIX

Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered. What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.

Phyllis Diller



I'd love to hold a koala. They sleep 22 hours a day, eat eucalyptus leaves and just hang out. I want to spend some time with that guy.

Milo Ventimiglia



Are we to paint what's on the face, what's inside the face, or what's behind it?

Pablo Picasso



I am very pleased with the success of the XMAS Party and the board agreed—and decided that this year's XMAS Party will be on the 30 November 2014. My congratulations to all members who participated and the contributions of directors Andrea Lee and Jan Dickson, the General Manager Ian McLaren and the staff. Thanks also to the First Option Credit Union.  
- Chairperson Shirley Faram.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting of the SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd was held on 18 November 2013 at the Dandenong Club, Melbourne.

It had been a hot day continuing into the evening and 38 members were in attendance. It was a busy meeting with consideration of the [Annual Report](#), a speech from the [Registrar of Housing Agencies Anthony Hardy](#), the launch of the Member Handbook, a new policy on [Liveability](#) for the Member Manual and board election results with the return of Shirley Faram and Tracey Hall and a new director Gayle Koubwere. Shirley Faram was re-elected Chairperson and Andrea Lee was re-elected Secretary. The meeting also received [a report from the board](#) - a response to the discussion on service standards at the General Meeting on 20 May 2013.

It was all over by 8:10 p.m. For more AGM reports:

AGM—Election p.7  
 AGM—Member Handbook p 15  
 AGM—Member Manual p 15  
 AGM - Good Governance Charter p 15  
 AGM—Service p 16  
 AGM—Annual report p 17

There were 22 (58% of 38 ) responses to the AGM Evaluation survey.

Was the information circulated before the meeting? Very helpful - 16 (72.73%) and Helpful 6 (27.27%). Was the presentation at the meeting? Very Helpful 18 (81.82%), Helpful 3 (13.64%) and Adequate 1 (4.55%). Was the discussion at the meeting? Very Helpful 14 (63.64%) and Helpful 8 (36.36%) What is your overall rating of the meeting? very Good 15 (68.18%) and Good 7 (31.82%)

# COMPLAINTS

It is imperative in a co-operative that the complaints process is open and transparent and that members, staff and the board recognise that members have a right to complain.

Tenants and prospective tenants will be advised of their rights in relation to complaints handling policy and procedures. Complaints handling material will be made available in languages other than English.

Assistance will be made available in preparing a written application, including:

- the use of an interpreter
- assistance for persons with a disability
- referring applicants to an advocate or SHASP provider

Every effort will be made to resolve a complaint at the first point of contact. Where this is not possible SouthEast will respond to the complainant within 5 working days of the complaint being made, acknowledge the complaint and, that the matter is under investigation.

SouthEast will take all reasonable steps to resolve a complaint within 21 days. For complaints not satisfactorily resolved within 30 days, the complainant may refer the complaint to the Housing Registrar for investigation.

Members are urged to lodge a complaint—if they have a complaint.

A copy of the Complaints Policy can be obtained from the General Manager, Ian McLaren. It can also be accessed on the SouthEast web site:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/members/complaints>

## sehc.org.au

*Housing Registrar Annual Review*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/publications/housingregistrar>

*Housing Futures newsletter*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/publications/newletter>

*Public Records of board meetings*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/board/public-records>

*Rules*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/publications/rules>

*Annual Reports*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/publications/annual-report>

*Member Manual*

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/publications/manuals>

**MEMBER ARTICLES**


<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/members/member-articles>

# MAJOR PRIORITIES



Jim Kokoras, Property Officer

## Feedback Options

 03 9706 8005

Email: [jim@sehc.org.au](mailto:jim@sehc.org.au)

Facsimile:  03 9706 8558

## Online:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/services/maintenance-form>

Maintenance at [sehc.org.au](http://www.sehc.org.au)

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/services/maintenance>

We have a limited budget for maintenance which is established by the board. The Annual report 2012 –2013 provides a Detailed Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2013 and this includes \$297,435 for property maintenance—an increase from \$286,167 in 2012.

The profit and loss statement also includes a DHS Asset Management Fee of \$349,270 for 2013.

In 2010-11 DHS undertook major works on two properties - in Oakleigh and Frankston. Since then, major works have been undertaken by SouthEast and under the General Lease we are now responsible for all major works. What would have been the Asset Management Fee to DHS will now be used for paying council rates, water utility service fees and additional funds for major works.

Major works include replacing roofs, painting and kitchen and bathroom replacements.

Major works means major expenditure and these are scheduled over a period of time and the priority is determined by urgency and on a needs basis.

## SouthEast Video Stats



The films were uploaded to YouTube on 27—29 February 2012. Numbers in brackets—times viewed as at 15 January 2014.

**Total You Tube views—3513**

**The Trailer (1052)**

<http://youtu.be/z1Y813L-xR4> 2m

**The Other Way Home (1486)**

<http://youtu.be/9R4ZCACLgJE> 12m 41s

**Advertorial—Co-operation Works (975)**

<http://youtu.be/x59NDnT3apo> 30s

**Privacy:** SouthEast is committed to protecting your privacy and complying with all applicable privacy laws. If you have any questions or comments about our privacy practices, we can be contacted at PO Box 7141, Dandenong 3175. Phone : 03 9706 8005. Fax 03 9706 8558



# NEW YEAR ARREARS

The Xmas/New Year Period is a time of celebration for all of us. It is also challenging time for all of us

It is not unusual to get behind in rent payments because the Xmas/New Year period can be costly and decisions made on spending priorities.

If you do get into arrears, then, please contact the office as soon as possible and we can work out something. If you put it off, then, you are merely putting off the inevitable—and making it worse.

Should any members get into rent arrears, do not try and avoid contact .

Whilst you may be embarrassed and unable to see a way out of the situation, members should always contact the office as soon as they see a problem with rent payments being late.


Our commitment is to assist—not aggravate.

REMEMBER, IF YOU SPEAK TO ME ON 9705 8005 THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEM.



**Joy Haines, Tenancy Officer**

## Feedback Options

Telephone:  03 9705 8005

Email: [joy@sehc.org.au](mailto:joy@sehc.org.au)

Facsimile:  03 9706 8558

## Online:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/services/tenancy-form>

Tenancy at [sehc.org.au](http://www.sehc.org.au)

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/services/tenancy>

## Web Site Stats

Google Analytics is used to log website statistics. Statistics were first collected on 3 June 2012.

Between 3 June 2012 - 22 November 2013 there were 3062 visitors making 4301 visits to 14,431 pages. Of the total visits, 3446 were from Australia with 99 from the UK - 2471 Melbourne, 417 Sydney, 166 Brisbane, 87 Cranbourne, 79 Adelaide and 49 Canberra.

Top page views were Contact 759, Tenancy 649, Procedural Motions 306, About Us 300 and staff 226.



## TRACEY AGM PIX



Tracey Hall is the Convenor of the Business and Finance Committee of the SouthEast board and spoke about the Annual Report.



## IAN AGM PIX



General Manager Ian McLaren was generally busy during the AGM—speaking and speaking and speaking.



# AGM REPORTS

## AGM—Member Handbook

The General Manager Ian McLaren launched the Member Handbook at the AGM on the 18 November 2013.

The Member Handbook, then, is a continuation of this commitment to inform members—the precondition for informed member choices and decisions.

It is expected that the Member Handbook will be updated on an annual basis and released at the Annual General Meeting each year.

The Handbook includes information on housing co-operatives, complaints, maintenance, member rights and responsibilities, tenancy and the Services Charter.

## AGM—Member Manual

Secretary Andrea Lee spoke to an amendment to the Member Manual on a Liveability Policy.

The new policy can be located at [sehc.org.au](http://www.sehc.org.au) at:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/images/Liveability18November2013.pdf>

## AGM—Good Governance Charter

Director Greg Nolan addressed the AGM on the 18 November 2013 on the Good Governance Charter for Housing Co-operatives. The Charter was tabled at the General Meeting on 20 May 2013. Greg urged members to read the Charter.

The [Good Governance Charter for Housing Co-operatives](#) was launched at the ICA Housing Plenary in Manchester in November 2012. It has three parts:

- A 10-point set of good governance practices
- An interpretive statement for each good practice
- The International Co-operative Alliance's statement on the Co-operative Identity which includes the seven International Co-operative Principles

It is intended to support the work of housing co-operative boards and how they carry out their duties. It focuses on the fundamental principles of governance and ethics that apply internationally to all housing co-op boards of directors.

ICA Housing

<http://www.icahousing.coop/>

# SHIRLEY AGM PIX



AGM



Shirley Faram is the Chairperson of the SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd. She has been Chairperson for all but one year since the co-operative was formed in 2000. and, once again, chaired the AGM.



## AGM—Services

At the AGM on 18 November 2013 Secretary Andrea Lee reported to members on service delivery—the board response to issues raised at the General Meeting on 20 May 2013. She advised that the board had spent a lot of time considering and responding to the issues raised by members at the General Meeting and that it had been an important opportunity to consider the opinions of members.

The report to members covered three broad areas— maintenance, tenancy and community. On maintenance, for example, the report covered follow-up on jobs, quality and emergency services maintenance.

The report is available on [sehc.org.au](http://www.sehc.org.au) at:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/images/BoardResponse18November2013.pdf>

## ANDREA AGM PIX



Andrea Lee is the Deputy Chairperson and Secretary of the SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd. Andrea was very busy at the AGM presenting reports.



## AGM—Annual Report

The Annual Report was presented to members at the AGM on the 18 November 2013 and Business Convenor Tracey Hall, Secretary Andrea Lee and General Manager Ian McLaren spoke to the report. Secretary Andrea Lee said it was a great report and easy to read. Business and Finance Convenor Tracey Hall thanked the members of the committee for their work, drew attention to the surplus and the positive impact of a General Lease on the surplus and the positive balance sheet and assets growth. General Manager Ian McLaren advised the meeting that the report was evidence of the co-operative's transparency and accountability.

The Annual Report has been mailed to all members. It is also available on [sehc.org.au](http://www.sehc.org.au) at:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/images/AnnualReport2013.pdf>

# General Meeting Film



This year's General Meeting in the first half of 2014 will view the new The Rochdale Pioneers film.

The story is set in 1844 when a group of working-class people from the town of Rochdale came together to change the unfair society they were living in.

Fed up with dishonest and corrupt shopkeepers selling poor quality products at high prices they decide to take matters into their own hands. By pooling the few resources they have, the group manage to get enough money together to open their own shop and pledge to only sell quality, unadulterated products, sharing the profits fairly with their customers.

The shop is only small and stocks just a handful of products like butter, flour and sugar, but the idea itself is revolutionary and the

way they do business fundamentally different in its nature.

The tale is particularly powerful as from these somewhat humble and unassuming beginnings it is estimated that there are now 1.4 million individual co-operative enterprises globally securing the livelihoods of over three billion people!

That's why, today more than ever, the story of the Rochdale Pioneers is one to inspire others to change their own world by making a difference in the society they live in.

**Cast:** John Henshaw, Andrew London, Jordan Dawes, Rachel Caffrey, Jack Baldwin, Matthew Stead, John Symes, Josie Owen, Ian Pink, Bob Young, Darren White, John McArdle, Eric Hulme, Michael Whewell, Eliza Kempson, Robert Maxfield, Ian Jenkins, Rod Barry, Hazel Mrozek.

**Crew:** John Montegrando, Adam Lee Hamilton, J S Papenbrock, Kevin Atkinson, Mark Robinson-Field, Claire Ebrey, Tom F Sykes, Robin Heap & John Eyre, Ed David Watkins, Pete Malkin, Natalie Fern, Chloe Brown, Katie Moskal, Michelle Dawe, Lewis Taylor, Joanna Ejsmont, Lesley Hague, Sian Ross.

The Co-operative British Youth Film Academy (BYFA) was established to provide a solid link between the commercial film industry and all branches of media education, by offering professional standard training and vocational experience twinned with students' current academic study. To date BYFA has produced eight feature length films: [Upstaged](#), [Treasure of Albion](#), [The School That Roared](#), [Re-Evolution](#), [As You Like It](#), [The Perfect Burger](#), [The Lime-light](#), and [Julius Caesar](#)



# Minister for Housing

## [Minister honours state's top Social Housing tenants](#)

Wednesday, 18 December 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell has hailed the work of Victorian social housing tenants Alan Sanders and Ethel May Emms, during a ceremony in Melbourne today.

## [St Mary's House of Welcome and SecondBite receive holiday boost](#)

Monday, 16 December 2013

The Victorian Coalition Government will support the The Big Give initiative this year, which provides a free Christmas lunch to more than 300 people who are experiencing disadvantage, Premier Denis Naphthine announced today.

## [Victoria in Bloom gardening competition begins](#)

Wednesday, 04 December 2013

Gardeners pick up your shovels, rev up your lawn mowers and start planting – the Victoria in Bloom garden competition is now open.

## [Sunshine region public housing waiting list falls](#)

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the September 2013 quarter Victorian public housing waiting list, which has fallen to its lowest level since June 2007.

## [Swan Hill public housing waiting list remains the same](#)

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the September 2013 quarter Victorian public housing waiting list, which has fallen to its lowest level since June 2007.

## [Preston public housing waiting lists remains stable](#)

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the September 2013 quarter Victorian public housing waiting list, which has fallen to its lowest level since June 2007.

## [Mildura public housing waiting list remains steady](#)

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the September 2013 quarter Victorian public housing waiting list, which has fallen to its lowest level since June 2007.

## [Ballarat region public housing waiting list falls](#)

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the September 2013 quarter Victorian public housing waiting list, which has fallen to its lowest level since June 2007.

Source: News releases from the Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/from-the-minister-for-housing.html>

# PATHWAYS NEW YEAR

The Victorian Government' is expected to make an announcement regarding its Pathways consultation early this year.

A report by KPMG following the consultation is with the Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell.

On the 30 April 2012 the Victorian Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell initiated a consultation on the future of social housing in Victoria. The closing date for submissions was 31 July 2012.

More than 1200 submissions were received and over 560 people participated in consultation meetings.

## SENATE PATHWAYS

On 12 December 2013, the Australian Senate referred an inquiry into affordable housing to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report. Submissions should be received by **25 March 2014**. The reporting date is **26 June 2014**.

The SouthEast board at its meeting on 13 December 2013 decided to make a submission to the Senate Committee. A draft submission will be considered by the Governance and Policy Committee on 14 February 2014 and by the board on 28 February 2014.

For more on the Senate Committee: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Affordable\\_housing\\_2013](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Affordable_housing_2013)

For more on the Senate Committee and the terms of reference:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/news/government/697-affordablesenate>

## Board Meetings 2014

28 February

28 March

2 May

30 May

27 June

01 August

29 August

26 September

31 October

28 November

12 December (To be confirmed)

## Xmas Party 2014

30 November 2014

## AGM 2014

17 November 2014

## Board Public Records

Public records of board meetings are available on the SouthEast web site at:

<http://www.sehc.org.au/index.php/board/public-records>

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